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Part 2, Lowell L. SKINNER
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 x Sec 4

TURNCOAT DISCOUNTS HIS ACTION

His Army Discharge
Was Not Deserved,
Says Ex-GI

New York, Aug. 18 (AP) —Lowell D. Skinner, Korean War turncoat, said tonight he did not deserve a dishonorable discharge from the United States Army for turning his back on his country.

Skinner, 32, returned to the United States this month after nine years in Communist China. He appeared in a taped telecast (WNEW-TV) on a program shared with Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The tapes were made in separate interviews three days apart. The interviewer asked similar questions.

Skinner said it was his decision to go to Communist China, rather than return to the United States after the war. He was dishonorably discharged in 1954.

Skinner was captured in the summer of 1950. In China, he married a Chinese girl and became a lathe operator.

The Akron (Ohio) native said his observations of the Chinese Reds convinced him they were not fanatics, as he said he had been told by other Americans.

"I began to notice that Communists are human," he said. "But they are also born on this planet and they're human. They don't come from Mars."

"A Tragic Case"

Dulles, commented, "It's a tragic case. The man should have had more strength and courage."

Dulles blamed American schools for not doing more to teach the meaning of communism to young persons before they enter military service.

Skinner, Dulles said, was unprepared to meet the kind of indoctrination that he received when he was there. I'm not trying to excuse him. There isn't any real excuse, but we're not all strong. We're not all well prepared.

Skinner discounted the indoctrination idea. He said that when United Nations negotiators agreed to Korean armistice terms that permitted prisoners of war to refuse repatriation, he interpreted this to mean it was legal for him to go to Red China before eventually going home.

Skinner said he was driven to go to China by a desire to know more about its people and to learn the Chinese language. He said he did not mean to stay indefinitely.

He said he was disappointed at being refused entrance to the University of Peking to study Chinese. He said he decided to return home in 1957, but was thwarted by the illness of his English-speaking wife, a Seventh Day Adventist.

Skinner said he still has hopes of getting his wife, now an invalid, out of Red China.

He asserted, too, that he is prepared to live with any insults or hostility from other Americans who object to his defection.

He said he would write of his reception in this country to other defectors still in China who might be considering returning home. There were 21 American turncoats in the Korean War.

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